

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064737

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, JA, UR

SUBJECT: JAPANESE ELECTRODE VACUUM ARC FURNACE TO USSR--
IL 1203

REF: A) COCOM DOC (76) 1499, B) COCOM DOC (76) 1317,
(C) COCOM DOC (76) 927, D) COCOM DOC (76) 621

1. REF D CASE HAS BEEN REEXAMINED AS A RESULT OF JAPANESE
REQUEST IN REF A FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE US OBJECTION.
US EXPERTS HAVE REITERATED THEIR VIEW THAT THESE FURNACES
WOULD NOT BE USED AND ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR THE STATED END
USE, THAT THE USSR HAS THE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY TO
PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY ROTOR SHAFT AND ROLL MATERIAL USING
ELECTROSLAG REMELTING FURNACES, AND ALSO HAS LARGE CAPACITY
VACUUM ARC REMELTING FURNACES THAT WOULD BE EXCELLENT FOR
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THE STATED END USE.

2. US TECHNICIANS AGREE THAT THE JAPANESE STATEMENTS IN
REF A ARE SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT BUT STATE THAT THESE STATE-
MENTS INDICATE ONLY THAT THE JAPANESE LARGE CAPACITY
FURNACES MIGHT BE UNDER-UTILIZED IN THE PROCESSING OF
NICKED BASED ALLOYS.

3. IN ANY EVENT DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THE ORIGINAL US OBJECTION TO THIS CASE WAS ENTERED ON AUGUST 17, 1976 (REF B), INCLUDING INSPECTION OF THE SOVIET MIG 25 AIRCRAFT AND DISCUSSIONS US EXPERTS HAVE HAD WITH SOVIET PERSONNEL IN MOSCOW, LEAD THE US EXPERTS TO BELIEVE THAT THESE CONSUMABLE ELECTRODE VACUUM ARC FURNACES ARE LIKELY TO BE USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF TITANIUM AND LARGE TITANIUM ALLOY INGOT. THEY NOTE THAT IN THE US AEROSPACE CONSUMPTION OF TITANIUM ALLOYS APPROACHES 90 PERCENT OF TOTAL PRODUCTION. THE INSPECTION OF THE MIG 25 INDICATES THAT THE USSR EITHER FAILS TO APPRECIATE THE DESIGN SIGNIFICANCE OF TITANIUM FOR AIRCRAFT OR CANNOT PRODUCE ENOUGH TO SUPPORT ITS MILITARY AIRCRAFT CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS. ONLY 3 PERCENT OF THE MIG 25 AIRCRAFT STRUCTURE WAS OF TITANIUM ALLOY. THE AIRCRAFT WAS OVERWEIGHT FOR ITS SIZE BECAUSE OF THE LARGE USE OF STEEL AND NICKEL-BASED ALLOYS. THE EXPORT OF TWO LARGE CONSUMABLE ELECTRODE VACUUM ARC FURNACES COULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO TITANIUM AND TITANIUM ALLOY PRODUCTION IN THE USSR. ONLY MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE FURNACES WOULD BE REQUIRED--VACUUM PUMPING CAPABILITY AND HEAVY WALL CRUCIBLES. THE SOVIETS POSSESS THE KIND AND CAPACITY OF VACUUM REQUIRED AND ALSO HAVE AVAILABLE, OR THE CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE, THE NECESSARY WALL CRUCIBLES.

4. THE LARGE PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF THE FURNACES IN THIS CASE COMBINED WITH THEIR VERY HIGH QUALITY CONTINUES TO BE OF CONCERN. USDEL SHOULD MAINTAIN THE US OBJECTION TO CONFIDENTIAL

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TH PROPOSED EXPORT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: LROSS:JAS
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Secure: OPEN
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